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Attorney's Docket 082106-0274056
Client Reference:

APR 14 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:
SEAN PETER WILLEMS ET AL.

Confirmation No: 1004

Application No.: 09/971,114

Group Art Unit: 3623

Filed: October 5, 2001

Examiner: Tarae, Catherine Michelle

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE OPTIMUM CONFIGURATION STRATEGY FOR SYSTEMS WITH MULTIPLE DECISION OPTIONS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that the following papers are being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office at (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below:

Response to Restriction Requirement

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP



E. R. HERNANDEZ
Reg. No. 47641

Date: April 14, 2006
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
Telephone: (703) 770-7900
Facsimile: (703) 770-7901

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

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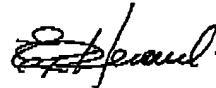
Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 16, 2006, Applicants elect to pursue the invention of Group I, drawn to optimizing a series of options over a series of stages by minimizing costs using subgraphs of nodes where each node corresponds to a stage (claims 1-117), *without traverse*. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the non-elected claims of Groups II and III in future continuing applications.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP



E. R. HERNANDEZ
Reg. No. 47641
Tel. No. 703 770.7788
Fax No. 703.770.7929

Date: April 14, 2006
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-7900

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